

TRIBAL HISTORY AND CULTURE PROJECT

Sample Policy/Procedure

Use this sample as a starting point for crafting a district policy and procedure related to incorporating curricula on Tribal history, culture and government in your schools.

Sample Policy

Consistent with the Centennial Accord between the federally recognized Indian Tribes and the State of Washington and Washington laws concerning Tribal history and culture, the _____ School District believes it is important to educate all children about the history, culture, treaty rights and the contributions of Tribal Nations in the state.

Therefore, the district will identify, incorporate and adopt curriculum that includes Tribal experiences and perspectives, so that Indian students are more engaged and learn more successfully. The Tribal curriculum will also help all students learn about the history, culture, government, and experiences of their Indian peers and neighbors.

Further, as the district conducts reviews and revisions to its social studies and history curricula, it will collaborate with the federally recognized Tribes within the district to incorporate expanded and improved curricular materials about Indian Tribes. The district will also encourage district staff to create programs for classroom and community cultural exchanges.

To achieve these goals, the district will utilize its district improvement team to advise the district on Tribal history curriculum development and implementation and cultural exchanges. The Superintendent will develop procedures to implement this policy.

Sample Procedure

Tribal Input

The district will seek input from Tribal officials and the parents of Indian children regarding:

- The participation of Indian children in the district's education program;
- Increasing participation of American Indian Families in district programs and activities;
- Development of curriculum that includes Tribal experience and perspectives; and
- Best practices and successful strategies as it relates to educating all students about Indian history, culture and government.

Washington State History

The district's Washington state history and government curriculum for grades 7-12 will include supplemental information on the culture, history, and government of the American Indian people.

Continuous Improvement Team

The district's improvement team will include parents of Indian students and at least two Indian educators/community members. The team shall assess the efficacy of the district's efforts to obtain meaningful input from Tribal officials and parents of Indian children, and the responsiveness of the district in supplementing its curriculum following input. The team shall report its findings and recommendations to the board at a public hearing at least once each year.

Continuous Improvement Plan

The district will utilize its continuous improvement plan to regularly assess and make recommendations to improve Indian education and curriculum.

Information Sessions

The district will conduct planning and information sessions during the school year. All parents of Indian students and representatives of the Tribal council shall be invited to attend these meetings. At these sessions, the district may:

- Review the plan for incorporating Indian education curriculum;
- Discuss the achievement of Indian students and the strategies used to improve achievement;
- Explain how the district's social studies and history curricula incorporates Indian Tribes; and
- Discuss programs and community cultural exchanges that promote the culture of Indian students.